

## A NOTE ON THE BIRDS OF GHAZIPUR.

BY

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The town of Ghazipur lies in the Eastern part of the United Provinces, on the north bank of the Ganges. The Civil District of the same name also, lies, for the most part, on the north bank of the river, but one part of it, the Tehsil of Zamania, is on the south bank. Most of the District is under cultivation. In the immediate neighbourhood of Ghazipur itself there are large plantations of Guava, Mango, and Custard-apple. In parts there are wide stretches of *Usar* (barren ground), and there are occasional small patches of *Dak* jungle. The area liable to annual flooding, known locally as the *Diara* is of interest, as several species of birds are commoner there than anywhere else, and, in some cases, only occur there.

The climate is more like that of Bihar than of the greater part of the United Provinces, being very humid. The rainfall is not very heavy, being only about forty-five inches annually. But the fact that when the more western districts of the province are subject to the hot, dry west wind, or 'loo', Ghazipur generally has a damp east wind tends to increase the humidity of the atmosphere.

In the following notes subspecific identifications are only given where there can be no room for doubt. Unfortunately very few specimens were collected, hence the number of subspecific identifications is small.

For the sake of completeness I have added notes on species which have been observed in the Benares and Azamgarh Districts but not in the Ghazipur District. It seems probable that they also occur in the latter district. Such species, with the notes on them, have been enclosed in square brackets.

### **Corvus macrorhynchos** Wagl. The Jungle Crow.

Numerous everywhere. The species breeds as freely in the station itself as in the surrounding country. Out of the breeding season Jungle Crows appear to gather nightly from a very wide area to some point so far undiscovered north-west of Ghazipur. Eggs are laid at varying times from the beginning of March to the end of April.

### **Corvus splendens splendens** (Vieillot). The Indian House Crow.

Most of the remarks on the last species apply also to this one. They appear to roost in the same place as the last, as both Jungle and House Crows frequently fly north together at sunset. Eggs are laid in June, and the nests are more carefully concealed than those of the last species.

### **Dendrocitta rufa** (Latham.) The Indian Tree-Pie.

A common pest. The number of eggs of small birds, particularly of Red-vented Bulbuls, destroyed by the Tree-Pie must be immense. This bird appears to breed in March, April, and possibly May, but is an adept at concealing its nest.

### **Sitta castanea** (Lesson). The Chestnut-bellied Nuthatch.

Numerous wherever there are trees, but particularly in gardens. They occasionally catch small moths on the wing after the fashion of a Flycatcher. Judging from the time young birds begin to appear eggs are laid early in March.

### **Turdoides somervillei** (Sykes). The Jungle Babbler.

Quite the commonest bird about Ghazipur. In the station every garden seems to have its flock. They are less common in the country. On October 16, 1930 a pair were seen feeding two young Pied Crested Cuckoos in trees opposite the compound of my bungalow. They appear to breed all the year round, but more commonly between March and August than at other times. There are no grounds for believing that they are anything but single-brooded.

**Argya caudata** (Dumont). The Common Babbler.

One seen in a Jasmine field on the outskirts of Ghazipur, 20-1-20. No other record.

**Argya malcomi** (Sykes). The Large Grey Babbler.

Extraordinarily local. A flock is always to be seen in some acacias at the south-west corner of the golf-links, except during the rains, when they seem to disappear. Apart from this flock I have only once seen the species, at the western corner of the District.

**Aegithinia tiphia** Linnaeus. The Common Iora.

Not seen during the cold weather. It was fairly numerous during the hot weather and rains of 1930, but was only seen about three times during the hot weather of 1931.

**Molpastes cafer saturatus** Whistler. The Red-vented Bulbul. ♂ 30-6-30, ♀ 19-7-30.

This species is less common about Ghazipur than in most parts of the Indian plains. The average height of their nests above the ground is greater than in other places. One nest I found was forty feet up a mango, and I have found none in this district below twelve feet. Eggs are laid from the middle of April till July, and possibly later.

[**Elathea jocosa** (Linnaeus). The Red-whiskered Bulbul.

This species was not observed in the Ghazipur District, although it is not uncommon at Benares, forty-five miles west, and is common at Azamgarh, about the same distance north.]

**Saxicola torquata** (Linnaeus). The Stonechat.

One seen at Mohammadabad, 6-11-29, and one or two near the northern boundary of the district the following autumn. Presumably all were on passage. It is surprising that this species is not commoner; and still more surprising that *Saxicola caprata* was not recorded at all.

**Oenanthe deserti** Temminck & Laug. The Desert Wheatear.

One seen perched on a mohwa tree, 24-1-30. No other record.

[**Cercomela fusca** (Blyth). The Brown Rock-Chat.

Not recorded in the Ghazipur District, but occurs at Azamgarh.]

**Phoenicurus ochrurus** (Gmelin). The Black Redstart.

A common winter visitor. The males appear to outnumber the females slightly. Earliest date seen September 11. Latest date not recorded.

**Cyanosylvia succica** (Linnaeus). The Bluethroat.

Occurs in the cold weather, but not in great numbers. It is more often seen on the *Diara* than elsewhere, and is numerous there in tamerisk scrub in the spring. Latest date seen April 2. One white-spotted individual only was seen, 30-1-30.

**Calliope calliope**. (Pallas). The Rubythroat.

\*Two or three seen feeding in long grass and jasmine plantation on the outskirts of Ghazipur, 3-12-29.

**Saxicoloides fulicata cambaiensis** (Latham). The Brown-backed Indian Robin.

Resident in considerable numbers. Eggs are laid at least from the end of March to the beginning of July, and perhaps earlier and later than these dates.

**Copsychus saularis** (Linnaeus). The Magpie Robin.

Resident in smaller numbers than the last species. Breeds in the rains.

**Turdus atrogularis** Temminck. The Black-throated Thrush.

One seen 20-11-31. No other record.

[*Monticola solitaria* (Linnaeus). The Blue Rock-Thrush.

Not seen in the Ghazipur District, but one seen at Sarnath, Benares District, 25-2-30.]

*Siphia parva* (Bechstein). The Red-breasted Flycatcher.

Fairly numerous throughout the cold weather, and very much more so on migration, particularly in the autumn. Females (or juveniles) appear to arrive first. These were numerous at the end of October and throughout November and December in 1929, but no red-breasted males were seen till December 21. The same phenomenon was noted in the two succeeding years, but dates were not recorded.

[*Stoparola melanops* (Vigors). The Verditer Flycatcher.

Not recorded in the Ghazipur District, but one seen at Azamgarh, 4-12-31.]

*Tchitrea paradisi* (Linnaeus). The Paradise Flycatcher.

In the Ghazipur District this species appears to occur both as a passage migrant in the spring and autumn, and as a rains visitor. As passage migrants they pass through in April and May, and again in October. The breeding birds appear to be established about the middle of June, and to leave in September, immediately after breeding. Eggs are laid in the earlier part of July, mangoes and guavas being the trees most usually chosen for the nest.

*Leucocerca aureola* Lesson. The White-browed Fantail Flycatcher.

A resident in considerable numbers.

*Lanius excubitor* Linnaeus. The Grey Shrike.

This is the commonest of the four *Lanii* met with at Ghazipur, but is by no means common. The few that occur appear to be resident, and to keep closely to their breeding locality. They seem to occur only on *usar* and the *Diara*. They breed in March, and probably also in the rains.

*Lanius vittatus* Valenciennes. The Bay-backed Shrike.

One in immature plumage seen on the outskirts of Ghazipur 27-1-30, and one in adult plumage near the same spot 28-3-30. No other record.

*Lanius schach* Linnaeus. The Rufous-backed Shrike.

Occasionally seen at all seasons.

*Lanius cristatus* Linnaeus. The Brown Shrike.

One seen south of the Ganges 21-12-30. For two or three days in early December, 1931, they were very numerous on the Ghazipur golf-links. No other records.

*Tephrodornis pondiceriana* (Gmelin). The Wood-Shrike.

Fairly common wherever there is cover, particularly amongst the fruit-gardens round Ghazipur. Appears to be resident.

*Pericrocotus brevirostris* (Vigors). The Short-billed Minivet.

A winter visitor in small numbers.

*Pericrocotus perigrinus* (Linnaeus). The Small Minivet.

Numerous, but erratic in its occurrence. Its appearances and disappearances do not seem to be connected with the season. A flock which contained some young birds which could not, from their appearance, long have left the nest, was seen near the church at Ghazipur on 2-11-31.

*Graucalus macei* Lesson. The Large Grey Cuckoo-Shrike.

Fairly common, and appears to be resident.

*Lalage sykesi* Strickland. The Black-headed Cuckoo-Shrike.

Occasionally seen, never in the cold weather. One was seen building a nest in a mango on the outskirts of Ghazipur 16-7-31. The branch on which the nest was placed was blown down in a storm before it was laid in.

*Campophaga melanschista* Hodgson. The Dark Grey Cuckoo-Shrike.

Occasionally seen.

**Dicrurus macrocercus** (Vieillot). The Black Drongo or King Crow. ♂ 23-6-30, ♂ 10-7-30.

Numerous at all seasons. The majority of eggs are laid about the end of June and the beginning of July, but some are laid a good deal later, and possibly some earlier.

**Dicrurus longicaudatus** Jerdon. The Ashy Drongo.

Occasionally seen, most frequently in March, when the species sings. The song varies considerably in individual birds; but the best songsters amongst them are quite equal to the best performers among Indian birds.

**Dicrurus coerulescens** (Linn.). The White-bellied Drongo.

One seen near Mahommedabad, Ghazipur 5-11-29. One was seen, probably the same individual, in the same place for several days after this. No other record.

**Orthotomus sutorius** (Pennant). The Tailor-Bird.

Surprisingly scarce. One came into my bungalow to hunt for insects on several occasions, and a pair haunted the garden most of the two and a half years I was there, but elsewhere I very rarely met with the species.

**Cisticola juncidis** (Rafinesque). The Fantail Warbler.

Fairly numerous, particularly in fields of Jasmine. This species occasionally seems to disappear entirely without any visible reason.

**Phylloscopus inornatus** Blyth. The Yellow-browed Warbler.

One seen near Mahommedabad, 6-11-29. This was the only *Phylloscopus* (except *collybitus*) identified. On the whole *Phylloscopi* seem to be less numerous winter visitors in the Ghazipur District than in most parts of Northern India.

**Phylloscopus collybitus** (Vieillot). The Chiff-chaff.

Two seen 18-12-31, one of them singing rather half-heartedly.

**Prinia socialis** Sykes. The Ashy Wren-Warbler.

Fairly common, especially in sarpat and on the *diara*.

**Prinia inornata** Sykes. The Indian Wren-Warbler.

One of the commonest birds in the District. It appears in this District to build exclusively in sarpat, where the nest is not even very carefully concealed. Eggs are mostly laid in the last week of July and the first week of August.

**Oriolus oriolus** (Linnaeus). The Golden Oriole.

A summer visitor, and probably also a passage migrant. It appears at the beginning of April, but its numbers appear to decrease somewhat before the end of the month. Eggs are laid in June. It leaves early in October.

**Oriolus xanthornus** (Linnaeus). The Black-headed Oriole.

Occurs at all seasons, but in greater numbers in winter than in summer. The decrease in the number of Black-headed Orioles in the spring seems to coincide with the arrival of the Golden Oriole, and their autumn increase with the departure of the Golden Oriole.

**Pastor roseus** (Linnaeus). The Rosy Starling.

Occasionally seen, never in large numbers, between November and March.

**Sturnia malabarica** (Gmelin). The Grey-headed Myna.

Appears to be resident in small numbers. In February and March there seem to be more of these birds about, and they congregate at that season in great numbers round the blossoms of the Silk Cotton Tree. This increase may, however, be only apparent, as they are a good deal shy and more difficult to observe than most members of their family.

**Temenuchus pagodarum** (Gmelin). The Brahminy Myna.

Resident in considerable numbers. Eggs laid in June; possibly also in May.

**Acridotheres tristis** (Linnaeus). The Common Mynah.

Very numerous. Out of the breeding season these birds appear to roost in the same neighbourhood as the Jungle and House Crows. The breeding season appears to extend from March to September, but the majority of eggs seem to be laid in July. In two successive years a pair of them built in a hole in the wall of my office after it had been vacated by a pair of Indian Spotted Owlets.

**Acridotheres ginginianus** (Latham). The Bank Mynah.

Fairly numerous. During the late summer and the cold weather they frequently feed in mixed flocks with other members of the same family. In April a large number of them disappear from their usual haunts, possibly to breed in some of the sand cliffs of the River Ganges. No large colonies of breeding birds observed, but two or three pairs may often be found breeding in a well. Eggs laid early in May.

**Sturnopastor contra** (Linnaeus). The Pied-Mynah.

Numerous and resident. In the autumn these birds come into the station, often feeding in mixed flocks with Common, Bank, and Brahminy Mynas. In the spring they leave the station for the surrounding country. Nests are built in Acacias, eggs being laid in July and August.

**Ploceus philippinus** (Linnaeus). The Baya or Weaver-Bird.

Resident, but not very numerous.

**Uroloncha malabarica** (Linnaeus). The White-throated Munia.

Resident and numerous. Most eggs are laid from January to March.

**Uroloncha punctulata** (Linnaeus). The Spotted Munia.

Occasionally seen, generally in small flocks in Jasmine gardens and Sarpat.

**Amandava amandava** (Linnaeus). The Red Munia or Amadavat.

Occasionally seen, sometimes in pairs, more often in flocks, either homogeneous or mixed with the last species.

**Carpodacus erythrinus** (Pallas). The Common Rosefinch.

A flock in which some of the males were beginning to assume breeding-plumage was seen 25-1-30. They occur from about that date till the latter half of February in varying numbers, giving the impression that they are passing through. None noted on the autumn passage.

**Gymnorhis xanthocollis** (Burton). The Yellow-throated Sparrow.

Appears to be resident in small numbers. Numbers increase in the spring.

**Passer domesticus** (Linnaeus). The House Sparrow.

Fairly numerous. Breeds irregularly, but chiefly in March and April. To overcome the nuisance of having these birds building inside their bungalows some of the European inhabitants put up nest-boxes in their verandahs. This measure seems quite successful, the Sparrows accepting the nest-boxes provided in preference to the inside of bungalows.

**Riparia paludicola** (?) (Vieillot). The Indian Sand-Martin.

Fairly numerous. Breeds in November. As no specimens were obtained it must remain doubtful whether the species is *paludicola* or *riparia*.

**Hirundo rustica** Linnaeus. The Common Swallow.

Occasionally seen in small numbers in October and November. Not recorded in any other months.

**Hirundo smithii** Leach. The Wire-tailed Swallow.

Occurs in small numbers in the hot weather and rains. Not noted in the cold weather.

**Hirundo daurica** Linnaeus. The Red-rumped Swallow.

Resident, breeding as soon as the rains break. In addition to the resident birds great numbers occur at intervals in the months of November, January, February, and March. When these large flocks appear they always seem to be entirely composed of very tired birds, which swarm on certain trees,

especially mangoes and high bamboos. They rarely stay more than one day. Probably they belong to a different race from the resident birds, but unfortunately no specimens were secured.

**Motacilla alba** Linnaeus. The White Wagtail.

Exceedingly numerous from October to March. Earliest date seen October 5. Latest date not noted.

**Motacilla cinerea** Tunstall. The Grey Wagtail.

Fairly numerous, but never in flocks, throughout the cold weather.

**Motacilla flava** Linnaeus. The Grey-headed Wagtail.

Occurs throughout the cold weather, but in greater numbers in spring and autumn than in the winter months. Both on migration and when established in winter quarters mixed flocks of this species and *M. alba* are by no means uncommon.

**Anthus trivialis** (Linnaeus). The Tree-Pipit.

A winter visitor in large numbers (October to March).

**Anthus richardi rufulus** (Vieillot). The Indian Pipit.

Occasionally seen, chiefly on 'usar', at all seasons.

**Calandrella acutirostris** Hume. The Short-toed Lark. ♂ 7-4-30.

The above specimen was shot from a large flock on the 'diara'. They occur in autumn and spring, but I have not noted them in the winter.

**Mirafra erythroptera** Blyth. The Red-winged Bush-Lark.

Occasionally seen, almost invariably on 'usar', at all seasons.

**Galerida cristata chendoola** Franklin. The Indian Crested Lark. ♂ December 30.

Not uncommon on the 'diara' and on 'usar'; rarely seen elsewhere. Resident.

**Ammomonas phoenicura** (Franklin). The Rufous-tailed Finch-Lark.

Appears to be resident in small numbers.

**Erenopterix grisea grisea** Scopoli. The Ashy-crowned Finch-Lark. ♂♂♀ 2-10-30.

In the cold weather this bird occurs in large flocks on the 'diara' and 'usar'. In summer it occurs sparingly in pairs everywhere. The flocks appear to break up about the end of February.

**Zosterops palebrosa** (Temminck). The White-eye.

Fairly numerous, and appears to be resident. As in other places this species seems to appear at once in great numbers immediately after the fall of unseasonable rain. Eggs are laid in June and July.

**Cinnyris asiatica** (Latham). The Purple Sunbird.

Common at all seasons. The earliest date at which a male was seen in breeding plumage was November 17th, south of the Ganges. Nests containing eggs or young were found from February 21 to May 5. In this district the species seems to have a strong preference for prickly pears as a site for a nest. Every nest found, with two exceptions, were suspended from the thorns of prickly pear bushes. Of the two exceptions, one was suspended from a bush growing five feet below the surface of the ground in a disused well, and the other on a young neem inside a brick protector-wall.

**Piprosoma agile** (Tickell). The Thick-billed Flower-pecker.

Fairly common, and apparently resident. It is usually to be seen in mango groves.

**Liopicus mahrattensis** (Latham). The Mahratta Woodpecker.

Fairly numerous and resident.

**Yungipicus nanus** (Vigors). The Pigmy Woodpecker. ♂ 11-12-29.

This one specimen was obtained from a grove of mangoes on the south side of the Ganges. No other record.

**Brachypternus benghalensis** (Linnaeus). The Golden-backed Woodpecker.

Resident in considerable numbers, particularly in the station itself and the fruit plantations surrounding it.

**lynx torquilla**. Linnaeus. The Wryneck.

One seen 20-2-31. No other record.

**Thereiceryx zeylanicus** (Gmelin). The Green Barbet.

Very numerous wherever there are trees. At no season is this bird completely silent. Any sudden noise at night wakes them up and sets them calling.

**Xantholema haemacephala** (P. L. S. Müller). The Coppermith.

Numerous and resident. Most eggs are laid in April. From an excavation begun on the seventeenth of March two eggs were taken on the seventeenth of April.

**Hierococcyx varius** (Vahl). The Common Hawk-Cuckoo, or Brainfever Bird.

Appears to be a summer visitor only, though the fact that even when calling this bird is more often heard than seen makes one wary of stating that none remain for the winter. During the hot weather and the rains the Brainfever Bird occurs in large numbers. The earliest date at which it was heard calling was February 13th. From that time till the end of September or beginning of October there are few days on which it may not be heard. Its vocal activity is greatly increased immediately on the breaking of the rains.

**Clamator jacobinus** (Boddaert). The Pied Crested Cuckoo.

Occurs in large numbers as a rains visitor. In 1930 it was first recorded on June 17th, and in 1931 on June 15th. It grows noticeably scarcer in September, and the last appears to have left by the end of October. On 16-10-30 two juveniles were seen being fed by one pair of Babblers in trees opposite my bungalow. The species is not particularly shy. On one occasion one was seen feeding on the ground only twenty yards to the right front of the firing point of the rifle range during rifle practice.

**Eudynamis scolopaceus** (Linnaeus). The Koel.

A numerous summer visitor. Earliest date seen and heard February 21.

**Taccocua leschenaulti** Lesson. The Sirkeer Cuckoo.

Fairly numerous and resident. Chiefly seen on *usar* and open arable land.

**Centropus sinensis** (Stephen). The Coucal or Crow-Pheasant.

Common and resident. Eggs laid in July.

**Psittacula krameri** (Scopoli). The Green Parrakeet.

Common at all seasons wherever there are trees. Eggs laid in the earlier part of April.

**Psittacula cyanocephala** (Linnaeus). The Blossom-headed Parrakeet.

Seen at all seasons on the northern borders of the District, but not elsewhere. This species is kept as commonly in cages locally as the last.

**Coracias benghalensis** Linnaeus. The Blue Jay or Indian Roller.

Common and resident. The mating-flight is commenced as early as the third week in February.

**Merops orientalis** Latham. The Green Bee-eater.

Common at all seasons.

**Merops superciliosus** Linnaeus. The Blue-tailed Bee-eater.

This bird is numerous, especially over tanks, in July, and is occasionally seen in the following two months. I have no record of it at any other season.

**Ceryle rudis** Linnaeus. The Pied Kingfisher.

Occurs wherever there is suitable water.

**Alcedo atthis** (Linnaeus). The Common Kingfisher.

Appears to be resident on those village ponds which hold water all the year round. In the rains they spread to those ponds which only hold water for part of the year, staying there till they dry up in the late winter. Not noticed on the river or large tanks.

**Halcyon smyrnensis** (Linnaeus). The White-breasted Kingfisher.

Occasionally seen at all seasons. In the Ghazipur District this species is noticeably scarcer than in most parts of the plains of northern India.

**Tockus birostris** (Scopoli). The Grey Hornbill.

Occasionally seen, chiefly in spring.

**Upupa epops** Linnaeus. The Hoopoe.

Very numerous at all seasons. Eggs are laid from the latter part of February and throughout March.

**Micropus affinis** (Gray). Indian House-Swift.

Numerous and apparently resident.

**Tachornis batasiensis** (Gray). The Palm-Swift.

Resident in considerable numbers. They breed in November, and possibly again in the spring.

**Caprimulgus macrourus** Horsfield. The Long-tailed Nightjar.

One seen near Sayedpur, 5-8-30. No other record.

**Caprimulgus monticolus** Franklin. Franklin's Nightjar.

Not uncommon in the station itself in the summer months. Numerous in the grounds of Ghazipur Club in the latter half of October and the earlier half of November.

**Caprimulgus asiaticus** Latham. Indian Nightjar.

Fairly numerous, and appears to be resident.

**Tyto alba** (Scopoli). The Barn Owl.

One seen near the railway between Sayedpur and Ghazipur, 9-11-29. No other record.

**Athene brama** (Temminck). The Spotted Owllet.

Very numerous. At least two pairs bred in my compound each year, one in a hollow Mohwa tree, and the other in a hole in a verandah wall. Eggs are laid about the end of February and the beginning of March. Observation of the nest in my verandah showed that both sexes take a share in incubation. All day one of the Owllets, apparently the male, sat on one of the verandah pillars, his eyes fixed on the entrance to the nesting hole, till about 2-30 or 3 p.m. At that time the one that had been sitting used to join the one on the pillar, and, after exchanging a few caresses, the one on the pillar went onto the nest, while the one from the nest flew off to feed.

**Glaucidium radiatum** (Tickell). The Jungle Owllet.

Fairly numerous at the west end of Ghazipur, in the now almost abandoned Cantonment. Rarely seen or heard elsewhere.

**Pandion haliaëtus** (Linnaeus). The Osprey.

One seen near Mohammedabad, at the east end of the District, 6-11-29. No other record.

**Sarcogyps calvus** (Scopoli). The King Vulture.

Common and resident. Several pairs of this species may often be seen at the same carcass.

**Gyps indicus** (Scopoli). The Indian Long-billed Vulture.

Less numerous than the last species.

**Pseudogyps benghalensis** (Gmelin). The White-backed Vulture.

The commonest Vulture at Ghazipur.



- Neophron percnopterus** (Linnaeus). The Neophron.  
Not as numerous as in most parts of India.
- Gypaëtus barbatus** (Linnaeus). The Lammergeyer.  
One seen on the northern border of the district, 27-2-31. No other record.
- Falco jugger** A. E. Gray. The Lagar Falcon.  
One seen near Mohammedabad, 6-11-29. Not identified with certainty on any other occasion.
- Falco tinnunculus** (Linnaeus). The Kestrel.  
Occasionally seen in the cold weather. One seen near Shahabpur on 3-1-30 was an unusually brightly coloured bird for the Indian Plains.
- Aquila rapax** (Temminck). The Tawny Eagle.  
Fairly common.
- Butastur teesa** (Franklin). The White-eyed Buzzard.  
Resident in small numbers.
- [**Haliaëtus leucoryphus** Pallas. Pallas's Fishing Eagle.  
A pair seen on Ghosi Jhil (just over the border of the Azamgarh District) 27-12-30. One was attacking Coot, which huddled together on the water in flocks of from forty to sixty strong for protection. It caught one on the wing, but dropped it, apparently unhurt.]
- Haliastur indus** (Boddaert). The Brahminy Kite.  
Common and resident. It is common over the river, but most frequently seen over village tanks.
- Milvus migrans** (Boddaert). The Common Pariah Kite.  
Not as numerous as in many other parts of India. Eggs laid in January and February.
- Circus macrourus** (S. G. Gmelin). The Hen Harrier.  
Occasionally seen, chiefly over *usar*, in the cold weather.
- Circus cyaneus** (Linnaeus). The Pallid Harrier.  
As the last.
- Circus aeruginosus** (Linnaeus). The Marsh Harrier.  
Commoner from September to April than either of the last two species. Seen on every kind of open country.
- Buteo rufinus** (Cretz). The Long-legged Buzzard.  
One seen 25-11-30. No other record.
- Crocopus phoenicopterus** (Latham). The Common Green Pigeon.  
Fairly numerous, and apparently resident, but moving about within the district in accordance with the food-supply. A pair shot on 3-1-30 each had their crops stuffed with peas, which disproves the commonly made assertion that the species *never* comes to the ground.
- Columba livia** Bonnaterre. The Blue Rock-Pigeon.  
Resident, breeding irregularly throughout the year.
- Streptopelia chinensis** (Scopoli). The Spotted Dove.  
Fairly numerous and resident.
- Streptopelia senegalensis** (Linnaeus). The Little Brown Dove.  
As the last species.
- Streptopelia decaocto** (Frisvaszky). The Indian Turtle-Dove.  
The commonest of the Doves in this District.
- Oenopopelia tranquebarica** (Herman). The Red Turtle Dove.  
Appears to be a hot weather visitor only in small numbers. Eggs laid in April.

**Pterocles exustus** (Temminck). The Common Sandgrouse.

A flock of about a dozen was seen flying over Nagsar Railway Station, south of the Ganges, 18-3-30. No other record.

**Coturnix coturnix** (Linnaeus). The Common Quail.

A winter visitor in surprisingly small numbers. Occurs more commonly on the *Diara* than elsewhere.

**Fracolinus pondicerianus** (Gmelin). The Grey Partridge.

Resident in small numbers.

**Amaurornis phoenicura** (Pennant). The White-breasted Waterhen.

Fairly common, chiefly on well-shaded village ponds. This bird is regarded as a delicacy by the Chamar caste.

**Ammurornis akool** (Sykes). The Brown Crake.

Occasionally seen south of the Ganges.

**Gallinula chloropus** (Linnaeus). The Waterhen.

A few seen on Ghosi Jhil 27-12-30. No record within the borders of the District.

**Porphyrio poliocephalus** (Latham). The Purple Coot.

One seen on the village tank at Barodi, near the northern border of the district, 2-1-30. No other record.

**Fulica atra** Linnaeus. The Common Coot.

Common on all tanks and jhils of any size. Also occurs on the Ganges. On 16-3-30, on the river a House Crow was seen attacking a Coot. The latter dived at each swoop of the Crow to avoid it.

**Anthropoides virgo** (Linnaeus). The Demoiselle Crane.

Occasionally seen in the cold weather.

**Burhinus oedicnemus** (Linnaeus). The Stone-Curlew.

Resident in considerable numbers. Eggs mostly laid in April, but possibly both earlier and later as well.

**Glareola lactea** Temminck. The Little Indian Pratincole.

Resident in large numbers on the Ganges. Eggs are laid in the earlier half of April. When the rains bring out the swarms of flying termites these birds may be seen catching them on the wing in large numbers at a considerable distance from the river.

**Cursorius coromandelicus** (Gmelin). The Indian Courser.

Fairly numerous, and appears to be resident. The flesh of these birds is by no means bad eating.

**Metapodius indicus** (Latham). The Bronze-winged Jacana.

Numerous on all large jhils. Breed in the latter part of the rains.

**Hydrophasianus chirurgus** (Scopoli). The Pheasant-tailed Jacana.

Even more numerous than the last species, breeding on small tanks as well as on the larger jhils. A pair watched courting on 11-8-30 flew higher and higher till they almost receded from sight.

**Lobivanellus indicus** (Boddaert). The Red-wattled Lapwing.

Common and resident. In April 30 a pair laid their eggs on the flat roof of the Ghazipur Church.

**Hoplopterus duvaucellii** (Lesson). The Spur-winged Plover.

Seen on several occasions on sandbanks on the Ganges, and probably breed there, but no eggs were found.

**Squatarola squatarola** (Linnaeus). The Grey Plover.

Several feeding on the sand by the Ganges 30-4-31. No other record.

**Charadrius dubius** Scopoli. The Little Ringed Plover.

Occurs in small numbers in the winter.

**Himantopus himantopus** (Linnaeus). The Black-winged Stilt.

Occurs in small numbers in the cold weather.

**Recurvirostris avocetta** Linnaeus. The Avocet.

Pair seen over the Ganges 27-4-31. No other record.

**Numenius arquatus** (Linnaeus). The Curlew.

Occurs in small flocks on the banks of the Ganges in winter.

**Tringa hypoleuca** Linnaeus. The Common Sandpiper.

A winter visitor in small numbers. Rather more numerous as a passage migrant in the autumn. Earliest date recorded October 10.

**Tringa ochropus** Linnaeus. The Green Sandpiper.

One or two wherever there is water in the cold weather.

**Tringa nebularia** (Gunner). The Greenshank.

Occurs in small numbers in the cold weather.

**Erolia minuta** (Leisler). The Little Stint.

Fairly numerous, chiefly in pairs or small parties up to half a dozen, throughout the cold weather. More numerous as a passage migrant both in spring and autumn. Latest date recorded April 2.

**Erolia temminckii** (Leisler). Temminck's Stint.

Less numerous than the last species.

**Capella gallinago** (Linnaeus). The Fantail Snipe.

Occurs wherever the ground is suitable in the cold weather.

**Capella stenura** (Bonaparte). The Pintail Snipe.

A pair seen near the Indian Cemetery 19-2-30. No other record.

**Larus ridibundus** Linnaeus. The Black-headed Gull.

One seen over the Ganges opposite the steamer ghat 16-3-30. No other record.

**Larus brunicephalus** Jerdon. The Brown-headed Gull.

Not uncommon on the Ganges from October to April.

**Chlidonias leucopareia** (Temminck). The Whiskered Tern.

Several seen over Birbanpura Tank, 15-9-30. They may well have bred there. No other record.

**Sterna nilotica** (Gmelin). The Gull-billed Tern.

One seen over the Ganges 28-4-31. No other record.

**Sterna seena** Sykes. The Common River Tern.

Very numerous at all seasons. They feed wherever there is water, but gather to sleep on two or three sandbanks opposite the old cantonment of Ghazipur. In the rains, when these banks are entirely submerged, they may still be seen towards dusk flying in the same direction. Eggs are mostly laid in the earlier half of April. They and *Rhyncops albicollis* frequently lay on the same sandbank, but I have found no other species breeding with these two.

**Sterna melanogaster** Temminck. The Black-bellied Tern.

Much less numerous than the last species. Appears to be resident, but no eggs taken. This species is rarely seen away from the river.

**Sterna albifrons** Vroeg. The Little Tern.

Fairly numerous on the river. Like the last species it does not often occur away from the river. Eggs are laid in the earlier half of April. It breeds in mixed colonies with the Pratincole.

**Rhyncops albicollis** Swainson. The Indian Skimmer.

Fairly numerous on the Ganges. Eggs are laid in the first half of April, and some before the end of March. It appears to breed either in homogeneous colonies or only mixed with *Sterna seena*.

**A hinga melanogaster** Pennant. The Indian Darter.

Occurs in small numbers. Resident.

**Ciconia ciconia** Linnaeus. The White Stork.

Pair seen near Sadat, 2-1-30. No other record.

**Dissoura episcopa** (Boddaert). The White-necked Stork.

Common, but very local in its distribution. Local name Jangil. Amongst the lower castes of Hindus its flesh is esteemed a delicacy.

**Ibis leucocephalus** (Pennant). The Painted Stork.

One seen in a tank near Jakhnian, 5-2-30. No other record.

[**Ardea purpurea** Linnaeus. The Purple Heron.

Several seen on Ghosi Jhil, 27-12-30. No other record.]

**Ardea cinerea** Linnaeus. The Common Heron.

Appears to be resident in small numbers.

**Egretta alba** (Linnaeus). The Large Egret.

Seen at Shahabpur, 13-1-30. No other record.

**Bubulcus ibis** (Linnaeus). The Cattle Egret.

Fairly numerous and resident.

**Ardeola grayii** (Sykes). The Pond Heron or Paddy Bird.

Common wherever there is water.

**Nycticorax nycticorax** (Linnaeus). The Night Heron.

For some weeks at the end of 1930 two or three roosted daily in tall *nim* trees in my compound. No other record.

**Ixobrychus cinnamomeus** (Gmelin). The Chestnut Bittern.

One seen on the banks of the Ganges in the evening, Sayedpur, 26-10-31.

**Sarkidiornis melanotos** (Pennant). The Nukta.

Resident in small numbers.

**Nettion coromandelicus** Gmelin. The Cotton Teal.

Resident and fairly numerous.

**Anser anser** Linnaeus. The Grey Lag Goose.

A fairly numerous winter visitor, occurring both on the Ganges and on tanks.

**Anser indicus** Latham. The Bar-headed Goose.

Less numerous than the last species.

**Dendrocygna javanica** (Horsfield). The Whistling Teal.

Numerous and resident.

**Casarca ferruginea** (Pallas). The Ruddy Sheldrake or Brahminy Duck.

Common in winter on the banks of the Ganges, sometimes seen on its tributaries. In the neighbourhood of Ghazipur most Europeans seem to believe that this bird feeds on corpses, and therefore avoid eating it. So far I have met no Indians who believe this, and its flesh is eaten by several castes.

**Anas platyrhynchos** Linnaeus. The Mallard.

Occurs occasionally in the cold weather, never in great numbers. In some years none are shot.

**Anas pocellorhynchos** Forster. The Spotbill.

Several seen on Bishanpura Tank, 15-9-30. No other record.

**Chaulelasmus streparus** (Linnaeus). The Gadwall.

Occurs in comparatively small numbers in the winter.

**Mareca penelope** (Linnaeus). The Wigeon.

A regular, but not very numerous winter visitor.

**Nettion crecca** (Linnaeus). The Common Teal.

Numerous throughout the cold weather and well into April.

**Querquedula querquedula** (Linnaeus). The Blue-winged or Garganey Teal.

By no means so numerous as the last species, but stays even later.

**Dafila acuta** (Linnaeus). The Pintail.

Occurs in the cold weather, but not in large numbers. It is more numerous as a passage migrant in the autumn than as a winter visitor.

**Spatula clypeata** (Linnaeus). The Shoveller.

Numerous throughout the cold weather.

**Netta rufina** (Pallas). The Red-crested Pochard.

A winter visitor in small numbers.

**Nyroca nyroca** Gldenstdt. The White-eye.

This appears to be the most numerous of the migratory Ducks in the District.

**Nyroca ferina** (Linnaeus). The Pochard.

Less numerous than the last species, but more so than *N. rufina*.

**Nyroca fuligula** (Linnaeus). The Tufted Duck.

A few appear to be shot every winter, but they are never very numerous.

[**Podiceps cristatus** (Linnaeus). The Great Crested Grebe.

Very numerous on Ghosi Jhil, 27-12-30. Not seen within the borders of the District.]

**Podiceps ruficollis** (Vroeg). The Little Grebe.

Very numerous wherever there is permanent water. Eggs appear mostly to be laid in August, but some must be laid later, as a family of very young chicks was seen on a tank near my bungalow on 31-11-31 and for several days afterwards.